

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT  
SIGNING CEREMONY FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER  
ON  
PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT INTERN PROGRAM

THE ROSE GARDEN

10:00 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: About a year ago at Syracuse University I espoused a proposal that had been made earlier by others, including Lamar Staats, to begin a Presidential Management Intern Program, bringing into our Government graduates of the public management programs.

We now have about 20,000 graduate students in public management in about 150 universities and colleges. I am sure we will have intense competition for these jobs in Government. Many of the people in the audience today in the educational institutions have been involved in the preparation of the program which I will initiate today by signing an executive order.

But equally important are the administrators of our Government agencies who are also in the audience, who will find very valuable, I am sure, these interns who will come in to serve for two years.

There won't be a special allotment of funds for this program. The bills are there and the normal budget processes will prevail, but we will have a chance to bring into our Government the finest graduates of our business management schools.

I think it is accurate to point out that those who serve in management positions in our Government now are also of superb quality, deeply dedicated, highly competent professionals in every way.

Quite often they are not adequately recognized, and I think it is accurate to say that these new interns in the program will undoubtedly be highly publicized, will help to reassure the American public about the high quality of all those who serve professionally in our Government itself.

I am very proud of this program. We will have about 250 men and women brought into the Government every year. They will serve for two years; we will have a maximum of 500 at any one time. And they will be offered a job at a good salary. At the conclusion of the two-year period, they can decide to stay permanently in the Government, or not -- we hope that many of them will -- and they will have the advantage of knowing Government at its finest.

Page 2

I think that in the future it is likely we will expand this program. Alan Campbell is already working on some possible improvements to it. One might be a cooperative program for graduate students who are still in college, whereby they might work part-time in government and receive credit from the government and from the university both for this experimental work.

We have high hopes that this will meet all of our objectives and that it will be successful in every way. I think one other ancillary benefit will be that we can more directly tap the tremendous reservoir of innovation, education, experiment, advice and counsel that exists within our higher educational institutions that are not often used by government. And I think the intern program itself, because it has to be a shared program, will help to tie together much more closely our educational institutions and the government on a continuing basis.

I think at the same time the benefits will flow to the universities, because as a common assessment of the experiences of these interns is examined by government and the universities, I think the teaching institutions will then see some of the latest problems and achievements and challenges of the government itself.

So for many reasons, I think this is one of the finest programs that I have had a part in, and I believe that all those assembled here today will insure the success of their efforts.

I would particularly like to express my thanks to Alan Campbell, who heads the Civil Service Commission, and who has been instrumental in bringing together these ideas. And it is with the greatest pleasure that I, as President of our country, sign an Executive Order to implement the President's Management Intern Program for the first time in the United States Government. (Applause) It will also be nice to have 250 other interns to join us newcomers to government. (Laughter)

MR. CAMPBELL: I believe the President has said it all. Those of us gathered here today are those who can make this program a success. I hope very much all of us will make every effort to do that. I can assure you you will have the full cooperation of the Civil Service Commission, both the chairman and the other commissioners who are here with us today. It is, I believe, the first step -- small, nonetheless significant -- in our effort to totally revitalize the personnel system of the Federal Government.

Mr. President, you have the appreciation of all of us.

END (AT 10:06 A.M. EDT)

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PRESIDENTIAL MANAGEMENT INTERN PROGRAM

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Sections 3301 and 3302 of Title 5 of the United States Code, Section 301 of Title 3 of the United States Code, and as President of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established the Presidential Management Intern Program, hereafter referred to as the Program, the purpose of which is to attract to Federal service men and women of exceptional management potential who have received special training in planning and managing public programs and policies.

Sec. 2. Outstanding individuals who have pursued a course of study oriented toward public management at a graduate-level educational institution and who, at the time of application, have recently received or will shortly receive an appropriate advanced degree, are eligible to apply for participation in the Program.

Sec. 3. The United States Civil Service Commission, hereafter referred to as the Commission, shall develop appropriate procedures for the recruitment, screening, and selection of applicants possessing the qualifications described in Section 2 of this order. In developing these procedures, the Commission shall be guided by the following principles and policies:

(a) The number of interns participating in the Program shall at no time exceed five hundred.

(b) Final selection of interns shall be made by the head of the department, agency, or component within the Executive Office of the President in which the intern is to be employed, or by the designee thereof.

(c) The procedures so developed shall provide for such affirmative action as the Commission deems appropriate to assure equal employment opportunity.

(d) To the extent permitted by law, the Commission is authorized to enter into appropriate cooperative arrangements with State and local officials and appropriate private institutions for recruitment and screening of candidates for the Program.

Sec. 4. Upon selection, candidates shall be appointed as interns to positions in Schedule A of the excepted service for a period not to exceed two years. Their tenure shall be governed by the following principles and policies:

(a) Interns shall be assigned responsibilities consistent with their public management backgrounds and the purposes of this Program.

(b) Continuation in the Program shall be contingent upon satisfactory performance by the interns throughout the internship period.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Section, service as interns shall confer no rights to further Federal employment in either the competitive or excepted service upon expiration of the two-year internship period.

(d) Interns may be granted competitive civil service status if they satisfactorily complete their two-year internships and meet all other requirements prescribed by the Commission.

Sec. 5. The Commission shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order.

JIMMY CARTER

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 25, 1977.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AUGUST 25, 1977

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today signed an executive order establishing a Presidential Management Intern Program which will provide two-year federal internships for up to 250 persons each year.

Competition will be limited to students who have recently received or will receive an advanced degree in public management. Students must be nominated by their universities.

The program's objective is to attract committed young men and women who are well trained in public management to the federal service.

While internship appointments will not be permanent, they may be converted to career appointments after two years of service. Participants will be appointed at grade GS-9 of the General Schedule, which currently pays \$14,097 per year. No more than 500 may be enrolled at any given time.

The program is not expected to increase the size of the federal work force. Rather, it offers a new means for program managers to increase their intake of promising new employees who are specifically trained in public management.

The program will be administered by the U.S. Civil Service Commission, which will develop and issue policies for nominating, screening, and selecting participants. First participants will be those receiving master's or doctoral degrees in 1978.

Civil Service Commission Chairman Alan K. Campbell said the Commission will rely heavily on the recommendations of deans and faculty of graduate schools of public affairs and public administration, as well as their counterparts in business schools that offer public management programs.

He also stressed that affirmative action will be an important aspect of the program, and stated: "We will take every possible step to insure that this program will represent an important and new avenue for well-qualified minorities and women to have an opportunity to demonstrate their potential for future managerial posts in government."

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